

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LDP KEEPS ONE SEAT IN AOMORI BUT LOSES

ANOTHER TO JCP IN OSAKA JUNE 17 UPPER

HOUSE BYE- ELECTIONS

SUMMARY: IN BYE- ELECTIONS CONDUCTED JUNE 17 TO FILL
TWO UPPER HOUSE VACANCIES, ELECTION OF IWAZO TERASHITA
PRESERVED LDP SEAT IN RURAL AOMORI PREFECTURE. HOWEVER,
DR. TAKEKO KUTSUNUGI OVERCAME BOTH LDP AND JSP CANDIDATES
IN SPECTACULAR VICTORY TO WIN SEAT FOR JCP IN HEAVILY
URBANIZED OSAKA PREFECTURE. CHANGE REDUCES LDP MAJORITY
IN UPPER HOUSE TO NINE SEATS. END SUMMARY.

1. MISS TAKEKO KUTSUNUGI (JCP) WON JUNE 17 BYE- ELECTION
FOR UPPER HOUSE SEAT IN HEAVILY URBANIZED OSAKA DE-
FEATING BOTH LDP AND JSP CANDIDATES. TERM OF SEAT
VACATED BY DEATH OF BUNZO AKAMA (LDP) RUNS UNTIL JULY
1977. FINAL COUNT GAVE KUTSUNUGI 700,230 VOTES, TAI
MORISHITA (LDP) 686,307 VOTES, TOKUJI KAMEDA (JSP)
411,205 VOTES, TOYOAKI IWAMI (DSP) 191,478 VOTES. TWO
INDEPENDENTS WHO ALSO RAN SHARED 22,000 VOTES. MEDICAL
DOCTOR KUTSUNUGI (AGE 50) IS FIVE- TERM VETERAN WHO
SERVED 18 YEARS IN OSAKA MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY. MORISHITA,
FOR WHOM THIS MAIDEN EFFORT, IS PRESIDENT OF WELL KNOWN
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OSAKA PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL APPLIANCE MANUFACTURING
FIRM, MORISHITA- JINTAN.

2. KUTSUNUGI CAMPAIGNED STRONGLY AGAINST LDP INABILITY

TO DEAL SATISFACTORILY WITH DAILY LIFE ISSUES OF GROWING CONCERN TO PUBLIC, INCLUDING POLLUTION AND RAPIDLY RISING PRICES OF GOODS, SERVICES AND LAND. SHE ALSO CRITICIZED WELL- PUBLICIZED TRADING COMPANY EFFORTS TO CORNER VARIOUS COMMODITY MARKETS. JCP REPORTEDLY ORGANIZED 250,000 PEOPLE AND DISTRIBUTED SOME 36 MILLION PAMPHLETS AND EXTRA EDITIONS OF PARTY ORGAN AKAHATA IN SUPPORT OF KUTSUNUGI CANDIDACY.

3. IN SUPPORT OF MORISHITA, LDP AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY FOUGHT SO- CALLED LAST DITCH CAMPAIGN DIRECTLY AGAINST JCP IN EFFORT TO HALT CONSPICUOUS URBAN TIDE IN FAVOR OF REVISIONIST PARTIES. PRIMIN TANAKA REPORTED TO HAVE WARNED IN ONE APPEARANCE IN OSAKA ON EVE OF ELECTION THAT JCP POSED THREAT TO FREE SOCIETY AND IF NOT STOPPED WOULD ULTIMATELY CRUSH MEDIUM AND SMALL BUSINESS FIRMS, WHICH NUMEROUS IN OSAKA. EARLIER, MITI MINISTER YASUHIRO NAKASONE ASKED AT ONE LDP RALLY WHETHER JCP STILL WISHES TO ABOLISH EMPEROR SYSTEM (TOKYO 7488).

4. DESPITE EMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN APPEALS, HOWEVER, ONLY 37.4 PERCENT OF VOTERS TURNED OUT IN SECOND LOWEST SHOWING IN OSAKA SINCE WAR IN ELECTION FOR NATIONAL OFFICE. SOME COMMENTATORS INTERPRETED THIS AS POPULAR EXPRESSION OF NON- CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL PROCESS PER SE.

5. ON SAME DATE FORMER SPEAKER OF PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY IWAZO TERASHITA (LDP) WON BYE- ELECTION FOR UPPER HOUSE SEAT IN QTE CONSERVATIVE KINGDOM UNQTE AOMORI, DEFEATING JSP, JCP AND TWO INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES. FINAL COUNT GAVE TERASHITA 180,602 VOTES, YOSHITERU KIDACHI (JSP) 119,263 VOTES, SHOSHIRO KIMURA (JCP) 63,282 VOTES, TETSURO MORITA (IND- CONSERVATIVE) 55,554 VOTES, AND CHUJIRO FURUKAWA (IND- DSP) 29,079 VOTES. TERM OF SEAT WHICH FELL VACANT ON DEATH OF BUNJI TSUSHIMA (LDP) RUNS UNTIL JULY 1977. TERASHITA (AGE 67) IS PRESIDENT OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR FIRM HE FOUNDED IN 1931.
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6. AOMORI VOTER TURNOUT WAS ALSO LIGHT, 46.3 PERCENT COMPARED TO 61.5 PERCENT IN 1972 LOWER HOUSE AND 54 PERCENT IN 1971 UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS. PRIMIN TANAKA AND OTHER LDP LEADERS APPEARED ON BEHALF OF TERASHITA IN ALL- OUT TRADITIONAL CAMPAIGN TO MOBILIZE CONSERVATIVE VOTES. LDP HOPED TO MAKE GOOD SHOWING TO RELIEVE SENSE OF CRISIS WITHIN PARTY WHICH HAS GROWN FOLLOWING RECENT SERIES OF SETBACKS. COMMENTATORS NOTED LACK OF POLICY DEBATE AND ALSO AGREED THAT JCP REFUSAL TO JOIN JSP IN SUPPORT OF JOINT CANDIDATE VIRTUALLY ASSURED TERASHITA ELECTION. DESPITE SOME EARLIER CONCERN, MORITA INSISTENCE ON RUNNING AS INDEPENDENT EVEN AFTER FAILING TO GAIN LDP ENDORSEMENT

DID NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECT TERASHITA CANDIDACY.

7. KUTSUNUGI ELECTION INCREASES NUMBER OF JCP SEATS IN UPPER HOUSE TO TOTAL OF ELEVEN. MINIMUM NUMBER REQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF EIT LAW TO QUALIFY PARTY TO SUBMIT NON- BUDGETARY BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND BILLS BEFORE UPPER HOUSE. (ONE MEMBER TO INTRODUCE, AND TEN TO SECOND.) LATTER POINT SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT COULD AFFECT UPPER HOUSE- PROCEEDINGS.

8. POST- ELECTION PARTY STANDING IN 252 SEAT UPPER HOUSE FOLLOWS:

LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY	135
JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY	61
KOMEITO	23
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY	11
JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY	11
NI- IN CLUB	4
INDEPENDENTS	2
VACANCIES	5

9. COMMENT: MAJOR IMPRESSION LEFT BY ELECTIONS IS SURPRISING SHOW OF STRENGTH BY JCP WHICH EMERGED AS LEADING PARTY IN OSAKA IN UNUSUALLY LOW VOTER TURNOUT. OSAKA RACE WAS VIEWED BY MOST OBSERVERS AS PREVIEW OF TOKYO METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY ELECTION NEXT MONTH, IN WHICH REVISIONIST CANDIDATES EX- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PECTED TO PERFORM WELL, GIVEN LDP DIFFICULTY IN RESPONDING MEANINGFULLY TO ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WHICH ALIENATE IT INCREASINGLY FROM URBAN ELECTORATE. PRESENT VOTER MOOD WHICH HAS PRECIPITATED DECLINE IN LDP FORTUNES IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AT LEAST THROUGH 1974 UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS IN WHICH FEW COMMENTATORS ARE NOW WILLING TO SPECULATE THAT LDP MIGHT MAINTAIN EVEN SLIM MAJORITY. MORE CRITICISM CAN BE EXPECTED OF PRIME MINISTER TANAKA LEADERSHIP FROM LDP AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT, WHICH SOMEWHAT MORE FRETFUL ABOUT FUTURE OF CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT. ON REVISIONIST SIDE REPORT THAT JSP IS SMARTING UNDER CAMPAIGN TACTICS ATTACKS BY JCP IN BOTH AOMORI AND OSAKA, AS WELL AS LOSS OF SOME LABOR VOTE TO JCP IN OSAKA, HAS GIVEN RISE TO SPECULATION THAT FORMER WILL FOLLOW MORE ANTI- COMMUNIST LINE IN FUTURE. AS BOTH CONTINUE JOCKEYING FOR LEADERSHIP OF OPPOSITION FORCES. END COMMENT.
SHOESMITH

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